In the Drawings:

Pursuant to the Examiner's approval, please substitute Figs. 1 – 8. Fig. 5 (0d, 10d and 20d) has been corrected to Figs. 5a, 5b and 5c, respectively, as shown in red ink per the attached corrected drawings. Formal drawings are also included herewith under separate cover.

In the Specification:

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 9, line 13, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- FIG. 5 demonstrates regeneration of degenerated somatic plant tissue in a T0 plant expressing the sps streptavidin cassette by external addition of biotin. Transformed plant cells were grown in culture in the presence of biotin until T0 plants were developed. The T0 plants were transferred to soil without further biotin supplementation. Within a month (Fig. 5a) severe plant somatic tissue degeneration was evident. Fig. 5a represents a plant having non vital young chlorotic leaves. Application of biotin solution restored normal leaf development as can be seen 10 days after application (Fig. 5b), or 20 days after initial application (Fig. 5c). --

a14

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 47, line 7, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Tomato plants were transformed with the sps construct, and 34 plantlets that were found to contain the transgene were transferred to the greenhouse. Twenty-four plants suffered of severe stem degeneration at the stage of four true leaves, and died. During the development of the remaining transgenic tomato plants, relatively minor

a15

stem and leaves degeneration could be observed in four plants, however, to a different level and time of appearance in the development of these plants (Fig. 5a and Table 4).--

Replace the paragraph beginning at page 48, line 1, with the following rewritten paragraph:

-- Spraying of 6 mg/liter biotin on the affected area, stopped the degeneration process and plants' growth was restored (Figures 5b and 5c). Without spraying of biotin, the plants were completely degenerated, indicating that the phenotype observed was related to the streptavidin expression. The morphology and development of leaves of 6 weeks old plants obtained from non transgenic plant and transgenic tomato plants expressing the sps streptavidin construct and treated daily with biotin were also examined. Figure 7 depicts the results of this study. Transgenic plants expressing the sps streptavidin construct and treated once (after 3 weeks) with biotin and transgenic plants expressing the sps streptavidin construct and not treated with biotin showed severe morphological changes resultant from tissue degeneration. This degeneration was to a lesser degree in the treated plants. Non transgenic plants both biotin treated and untreated appeared normal. --